

H. Res. 1016

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

April 23, 2008.

Whereas William F. Buckley, Jr., was born on November 24, 1925, in New York City, the sixth of 10 children in a devoutly Catholic family;

Whereas William Buckley studied at the University of Mexico before serving his country in the Army and then later graduating with a Bachelor of Arts (in political science, economics, and history) with honors from Yale University in 1950;

Whereas William Buckley worked briefly for the Central Intelligence Agency;

Whereas at the young age of 25, William Buckley published his first popular book, entitled “God and Man at Yale”;

Whereas William Buckley went on to write more than 55 books and edit 5 more, including “Let Us Talk of Many Things: the Collected Speeches”; the novel, “Elvis in the Morning”; and his literary autobiography, “Miles Gone By”;

Whereas William Buckley wrote more than 4,500,000 words in his more than 5,600 biweekly newspaper columns, entitled “On the Right”;

Whereas William Buckley founded the popular and influential National Review magazine in 1955, a respected journal of conservative thought and opinion;

Whereas William Buckley wrote in the first issue of National Review that, in founding the magazine, it “stands athwart history, yelling Stop, at a time when no one is inclined to do so, or to have much patience with those who so urge it”;

Whereas William Buckley served as editor of National Review for 35 years, from its founding in 1955 until his announced retirement in 1990, and as editor-at-large until his death;

Whereas in 1965, William Buckley ran for mayor of New York City and received 13.4 percent of the votes on the Conservative Party ticket;

Whereas William Buckley was host of the Emmy Award-winning and long-running “Firing Line”, a weekly television debate program with such notable guests as Barry Goldwater, Margaret Thatcher, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, and George H.W. Bush;

Whereas the New York Times noted that “Mr. Buckley’s greatest achievement was making conservatism—not just electoral Republicanism, but conservatism as a system of ideas—respectable in liberal post-World War II America. He mobilized the young enthusiasts who helped nominate Barry Goldwater in 1964, and saw his dreams fulfilled when Reagan and the Bushes captured the Oval Office”;

Whereas as well-known columnist George Will once said, “before there was Ronald Reagan there was Barry Goldwater, before there was Goldwater there was National

Review, and before there was National Review there was William F. Buckley”;

Whereas William Buckley’s consistent efforts facilitated the rise of Senator Barry Goldwater and, ultimately, the presidency of Ronald Reagan;

Whereas William Buckley received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1991;

Whereas William Buckley received numerous other awards, including Best Columnist of the Year, 1967; Television Emmy for Outstanding Achievement, 1969; the American Book Award for Best Mystery (paperback) for “Stained Glass”, 1980; the Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Award, 1989; the Adam Smith Award, Hillsdale College, 1996; and the Heritage Foundation’s Clare Booth Luce Award, 1999;

Whereas William Buckley spent over 56 years married to the former Patricia Alden Austin Taylor, a devoted homemaker, mother, wife, and philanthropist, before her passing in April 2007;

Whereas William Buckley passed away on February 27, 2008, and is survived by his son, Christopher, of Washington, DC; his sisters, Priscilla L. Buckley, of Sharon, Connecticut, Patricia Buckley Bozell, of Washington, DC, and Carol Buckley, of Columbia, South Carolina; his brothers, James L. Buckley, of Sharon, Connecticut, and F. Reid Buckley, of Camden, South Carolina; and a granddaughter and a grandson;

Whereas William Buckley, by virtue of his distinct personality, talents, good humor, and goodwill, led in a manner that earned the respect and friendship even of his adversaries; and

Whereas William Buckley was recognized as a towering intellect, a man who, in the words of Ronald Reagan, “gave the world something different”, and, most of all, a true gentleman who encountered everything he did with grace, dignity, optimism, and good humor: Now, therefore, be it *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the life of William F. Buckley, Jr., for his lifetime commitment to journalism, his devotion to the free exchange of ideas, and his gentlemanly and well-respected contributions to political discourse; and

(2) mourns the loss of William F. Buckley, Jr., and expresses its condolences to his family, his friends, and his colleagues.

Attest:

Clerk.